Folder 29:
Youel,
John E.
(Fairbanks)
1934-1936

NARRATIVE--- First Presbyterian Church- Fairbanks, Alaska
For the Month- Sept. 15 to Oct. 14. 1934

The weather seems to be settling down for a wintry storm- mixed rain and snow today. We have been blessed with a very beautiful,open fall. This has given us a good chance to get the outside work well done up. However,there is a lot of human nature in this country,as well as elsewhere,so we shall be cold and wet while attending to some things that should have been done weeks ago. For instance: some insulating in the walls and over the ceiling of the old part of the church building has been needed for keeping the cold out and the heat in. Just now several loads of sawdust are being dumped beside the building and we shall be rounding up a bunch of men to work as volunteers to do the job of putting it all into place. It will be a good day's work for a dozen men. Now we are hoping for dry weather until this is finished.

The total attendance in all of the services and activities of the Church for the past month numbers 1057. That indicates something is beginning to move in the right direction. We are always happy when the scattered conditions of the summer season are over and the people are back in their plades for the best work of the year. We are missing a good many still,and we account for this by the fact that the roads are good for travelling in all directions. We,who are responsible for the management and leadership of the Church,almost welcome the day when the rivers freeze over and the roads become blocked with snow. Hardly-yet we do want the services and organization work to be better attended and supported. We are surely expecting this year to be the best,in some respects,that we have ever known in this Church. Signs are hopeful.

Our Rally Day,Oct.7,was quite a success. Eighty-two were present in the Sunday School and sixty-five in the morning service. This was our fall Communion service,and,as usual here,it was among the best attended of any of our services. This fact and experience gives us much satisfaction. We shall definitely work for Christian decisions and open confessions by Church membership every week this fall and winter.

The Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines located here offers a real challenge for our Church and its workers. It is not a large school in point of numbers compared with colleges in the States,but there are about 150 students enrolled for this year,and there will be more to come. This is a land-grant school,supported by the Territory and U.S. jointly. The thirteenth year of its history has just started. We shall urgently solicit the attendance and interest of the faculty and students. Being situated four miles out of town causes a hindrance to convenient participation in the activities of the town churches on the part of the college people living on the campus. The expense of transportation is in the way. I am busy about contacting by letter and visit as many of these teachers and students as possible these days. We are sure that we have an adequate Church and program that will interest and profit them if we can get their attention. In the past the College Administration and faculty members have helped very little. We are hoping for improvement from that source.

As we have pleasure in stating again and again,we are so grateful for the wonderful way our friends are remembering and helping us to carry on. We are far up in the North- takes two weeks for letters to come. At that there are some compensations,and God is mindful of us,too.

John E. Youel
Missionary & Pastor.

First Presbyterian Church

JOHN E. YOUEL, PASTOR

FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

November 21, 1934

Dr. J. M. Somerndike,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Somerndike:

Thank you for the advice some weeks ago regarding the generous offer of the representative of The American Bible Society. I asked for tewnty-five copies of each of the books- Bibles,Testaments,and Gospels- and they are all here. I shall be glad to make good use of them in the course of my visitations through my field. Also,I appreciate the fact that you sent a copy of my Narrative Report for Aug. 15th to Sept. 14th to Dr. Maier at Arkansas City. Each month since last summer I have been sending a copy of my Narrative directly to him- a duplicate of the one I send to you. I expect to continue to do this each month.

In your letter to me dated October 25th you write about your correspondence with the Anchorage Church relative to their assuming a larger share of their pastor's salary. You say that they have cited the case of the Fairbanks Church which they state has as large a membership as the Anchorage Church,with the advantages in favor of Fairbanks in several particulars. I must remark that this is the first instance on record that Anchorage residents have ever taken that attitude or admitted that Fairbanks in any way is scarcely "on the map of Alaska." From our position this admission is rather amusing.

As to the validity of the contention of the congregation at Anchorage I am not prepared to answer,for I know very little about the present status of the congregation or the town. We are located 360 miles away from them. I do know this much: When I left the Anchorage pastorate 6½ years ago there were 108 members on the roll and 220 S.S. Members; and this year they report 63 church members and 158 S.S. members. I do not pretend to understand the reason for the decrease in numbers. In Anchorage our church has very little "competition" with other denominations,while in Fairbanks there are three very lively "competitors" in the field- R.C.,Prot.Episc.,and C.S. Here we are making a gradual growth,but slow and steady. We are hard at work in our effort to raise the money for retiring notes amounting to $3,400 for the building of our new Church four years ago. Our intention is to do this within the coming five years. Please confer with Dr.A.B.Keeler. We here could not think of assuming a larger share of our essential budget. Fairbanks is still a mining place with "ups & downs."

First Presbyterian Church

JOHN E. YOUEL, PASTOR

FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

Most all of our growth and development comes within the realm of the children and young people with whom we are constantly working. It is with the younger ages that we can hope to accomplish very much in this country. As you will appreciate this fact I am sure that you will not expect nor require our churches in this part of Alaska to get along effectively with a less amount of help from the Board than we have been receiving in recent years. To the extent that I do know about conditions in the Anchorage field,I should say that they are doing very well there in carrying all of their budget except the amount of the Board's grant of $65 per month,as in the past for some time. I hope that you will not have to reduce the grant to the Anchorage Church to $50. Mr. Winterberger and his congregation are bravely doing a good and faithful work in all of that very strategic area.

I sincerely trust that I have furnished you with the facts and information you desired.

As Stated Clerk I am in frequent communication with Percy Ipalook at Wales. We are hoping that he will fit in there effectively. I have not met him personally,but I like his fine spirit. Through Dr.Greist,as Presbytery's Commission,we have formally licensed him,-report of the fact to be received and ratified when we next meet. We shall not ordain him this way- he must wait for that until he can be present in Presbytery Meeting with us or elsewhere. We are so sorry that he is there on that field <u>without</u> <u>ordination</u>. No doubt he will make the best of the difficult situation,and we shall help him all that we can.

We are very busy in every direction in the work and some good results are appearing here and there. The cold weather is not closing in so early as usual- very nice and open so far,with temperature around zero day after day.

Soliciting your prayerful interest and support,I am,

Yours cordially,

John E. Youel

NARRATIVE--- First Presbyterian Church- Fairbanks, Alaska
For the Month- Oct. 15 to Nov. 14, 1934

If our many friends of the States could be here today they would be very much surprised to find that the climate is mild and beautiful for winter time. We are unusually favored so far in not having the very cold weather long before this date. The temperature has been around zero for several days and nights. There is very little snow, just enough to make things white everywhere. We are not thinking that we shall have an open winter for we well know that there is time for much snow and severe cold. It will probably drop to 40 below zero before Dec. 1st. We are so fortunate in having the good weather conditions so late this year which has enabled the out-door work to go on without delay. Most of the gold dredging activities are still going on,-and that means much comfort and happiness for all concerned.

In most respects the work of the Church is gathering momentum as the weeks come and go. Many persons are taking hold and having part in the various organizations and activities. Our numbers are rather small but they represent much hard and faithful work on the part of those who are willing to contribute their time and ability in our Christian interests. So many things are calling for the attention of the people. Lodges, dances, shows, school affairs,-many things are demanding the time and attention of everyone, and we are happy if we can get the interest of our share of the population for even some of the time on the Sundays. In this country there is more liberty taken for entertainment and recreation than is a reasonable proportion. We have our trials and disappointments, after spending time and much devoted energy, and then find so little dependability among those whom we have trusted and done the most for. In this respect Alaska is not so different from the States, except that there are fewer folks in the population centers.

An attendance contest is going on in the Sunday school, and we are hoping for some good results. This will run until New Years. An epidemic of colds and flu has been having its usual early winter run for the past two or three weeks, and that has resulted in keeping many of our children away from the Sunday School and Church. Evidently the worst is over and we shall be looking for increased attendance every Sunday. Some plans for the celebration of Christmas have started.

The Ladies Aid Society is making large preparations for the annual Bazaar to be held on Nov. 17th. We shall tell the story of that event in the next issue of our Narrative. Considering the many ladies who are working and the numerous articles that have been made or contributed the 1934 Bazaar should prove to be the best for years. The Pastor is busy backing up the women in their efforts and proposes to be ready to take his share of the credit or the blame according to the character of the affair when it is finally over. Hoping for success.

Repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment has not improved social or any other conditions in this part of Alaska. Our problems are increased. Youth and children are drinking freely- and they answer our argument and entreaty by saying that drinking is now legal and all right. We are feeling this situation severely in the work with the youth of High School and College ages.

Next month I shall try to have a "human interest story" or two. How grateful we all are that YOU ALL are concerned with us in this wide field.

John E. Youel
Missionary & Pastor.

December
4th
1934

Rev. John E. Youel,
Fairbanks, Alaska

Dear Mr. Youel:

I am very grateful to you for the information contained in your letter of November 21st, relative to the situation at Fairbanks, and I am espacially grateful for your observations with reference to the situation at Anchorage. Have no fear that we will reduce the appropriation to your church or indeed to any of the churches in Yukon Presbytery this year. I have sufficient faith in you and sufficient confidence in your loyalty to the Board to know that you will do everything in your power to enlist all the resources possible in order to obtain the largest amount in the way of local support.

It is not necessary for me to instruct you or any of the missionaries by saying that the development of local support represents the real objective of all our National Missions work. I think that as we progress in the matter of increased membership in our mission stations, we ought naturally to expect that some increase be made from year to year in local contributions. Even if the reduction in aid is only 5% a year - which would be quite an inconsiderable amount - it would be making progress in the right direction and I think that the churches ought constantly to be striving toward that objective. However, I feel sure that you are doing this and need no reminders from me regarding its importance.

With best wishes, I am

Faithfully yours,

JMS:BH

NARRATIVE--- First Presbyterian Church- Fairbanks, Alaska
For the Month- Nov. 15 to Dec. 14, 1934

Greetings-- Christmas Greetings to our many friends of the States. Long before this letter reaches you Christmas will have passed again,but we hope and pray that we all may be the better and stronger in faith for the experience. The Christ of Christmas is increasingly precious to us up here.

How busy we all are about our preparations for the exercises,services and programs! Many are working on their parts for the various numbers,especially so are the teachers and children of the Sunday School,and the members of the Choirs. I think we have never had better interest taken by so many persons of all ages any previous year. This will be our seventh Christmas with the Fairbanks people. We love them all very much.

(12)

We have had the most remarkable Winter that has ever been known so far. The deep cold weather has not come as has been expected. We have had above zero temperatures several days in December,and some days were above freezing so that the snow nearly all disappeared. It is colder again and some snow has fallen,but all of the old-timers are amazed and are declaring, "We've never seen a winter in Alaska as warm as this before." It is "okay" with me, and is helping mightily by easing up on the coal bill and the work of firing. The winter will surely be much shortened even if the thermometer does drop down in the forties below as we always expect for several weeks.

These are our short days- having about five hours of daylight- the sun is visible nearly four hours here these days. The stars come out brightly by three P.M.,and we must have the electric lights burning in the homes and all occupied buildings practically all day through. Think of that! And current costs us 18¢ per k.w.hr. That's one way the money must go. Living expenses in this part of the country are at least three times what they are in most parts of the States. Regardless of expenses Alaska has a strong attraction and fascination for most of us who live and work here. Last Sunday one of our good workers remarked as she was leaving the front door of the Church after the close of service at noon- "Oh,the sun is up!" It appeared bright and beautiful out at the south end of the street,no higher then than the roofs of the houses four or five blocks away. She had come to the Church in time for Sunday School at ten o'clock. Late rising on Sunday mornings is one of the things constantly in the way of our attendance in the Sunday School here. Since it is dark so late the people do not stir out in time to get to the Church unless they are much interested.

The Ladies Aid Society held their annual Bazaar a month ago,and it proved to be a great success in every way. All were gratified and satisfied that their sacrificial and loyal efforts had not been expended in vain. The receipts were sufficient to enable them to turn over a generous cheque to the Church Treasurer for the purpose of paying off a note that was carried at the Bank at the rate of 10% interest. This brings our indebtedness for the new Church Building down to $2,900. We are all striving our very best to retire these notes as fast as possible. We have a very wonderful group of loyal woman. ~~We couldn't get along without their fine work and help.~~

Progress at Fairbanks!

The pioneers of Alaska are falling very fast these years- like leaves in the late autumn. So many came North in the stampedes for gold. I have conducted more than 150 funerals here in Fairbanks,and nearly all of them have been of those who came out in the Klondike Gold Rush in 1898. From Dawson men,and some women,came on to Fairbanks and formed the great mining Camp in this district in 1903-1904. These old "sourdoughs" are fast reaching "the end of the trail" and I am on the ground and having a part in administering the "last sad rites." Their passing to me is pathetic,and I seem to have a personal interest in each one as a "Comrade of the North."

John E. Youel, Missionary & Pastor.

First Presbyterian Church

JOHN E. YOUEL, PASTOR

FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

December 19, 1934

Dr. J. M. Somerndike
156 Fifth Avenue
New York

Dear Dr. Somerndike:

Here is my "Narrative" for the last month. My formal Report is going through the hands of Rev.E.L.Winterberger as N.M.Chairman. A copy of this "Narrative" sheet is mailed direct to Dr. Maier, Arkansas City, Kansas. You may be sure that I shall keep doing my very best to fulfil their expectations of me as their Alaska Missionary. We are so grateful to Dr. Maier and his congregation for their generous support and sympathy at all times.

Harlan expects to be in New York for part of his Holiday vacation. I hope he will call to see you,as I know he means to do ere long. He is enjoying and getting so much from his work and associations in Harvard. We are so glad that he can be there,after nearly nine years of isolation in Alaska. We think that he is a great boy. How we are missing him here!

Your letter of Dec. 4th is just received,and I appreciate it so much. You may surely trust me to do all that I can always to work consistently with the Board having in view its objectives as I understand them to be. We are pulling for all that we are worth here locally. The Ladies Aid women are just now paying off a note at the Bank which was drawing interest at 10%. This is in the right direction and we are much encouraged.

We wish that you could be here with us for a CHRISTMAS IN THE NORTH. Very kindest wishes to you all.

Yours cordially,

John E. Youel

John E. Youel

ERRATIVE--- First Presbyterian Church- Fairbanks, Alaska
for the Month- Dec. 15 to Jan. 14, 1935

Here we are-- we started on our journey through another calendar year, with a great deal of faith, and much to inspire our courage. The Christmas exercises and all of the holiday week were very happy events. I believe that we have never known a more blessed experience than has been realized as the result of the emphasis given to the doctrine of the Incarnation of Jesus Christ. Many have indicated that they were favorably impressed. So many have expressed their Happy New Year wishes for us, and we are interpreting those wishes as earnest and sincere prayers.

We have had some regular Arctic climate around here lately, but the thermometer has not gone as low as it did at this time last year by far; only around 35 to 40 degrees below zero, while a year ago it dropped to 66 degrees below at Fairbanks. This is a very delightful winter and we are very much pleased. We now have a foot of beautiful snow, and everything out-doors is heavily coated with frost-- making a perfect picture of what we might expect fairy-land to be. We wish you could all see it! Quite noticeably the sun is coming back our way again, and the days are beginning to lengthen. We are all glad, for so much darkness, and the necessity of using artificial light, becomes depressing after so many weeks of it.

We wish you all might have spent Christmas with us this year. All of the services and programs of the Church and Sunday School were well prepared and carried through. They were very largely attended. The Choir furnished very beautiful musical numbers. The second service was a "Vesper Service of Music." It would have been most creditable had it been rendered in a city Church anywhere in the States. Then- on Christmas Eve the children of the congregation had the right-of-way in the Sunday School Program, which consisted of a wide variety of recitations, songs, instrumental music, exercises, and a play behind the curtain, presumably a radio broadcast. A large spruce tree was brought in and nicely decorated. The beautiful auditorium was otherwise tastefully decorated and the new modernistic light fixtures appeared to an effective advantage. This land being the home of "Santa Claus" of course he made a very cheerful visit and pleased everyone with his happy manners and remarks. We, up here in the North, someway have the opinion that no one living elsewhere can know or understand how fine it is to have so much fun while we are playing and living through the routine of our lives. But when we work we WORK just as intensely as we play at play-time.

Our Ladies Aid members have not ceased their active labors, and they have held a luncheon from which they realized a very goodly sum. I never saw such a courageous lot of women around a little Church anywhere else. How efficient they are as well. They make a little bit go such a long way in everything they undertake. When we see them at work so constantly all the rest of us either get under way at something profitable, or else we run away and hide. Fear that too many are doing the latter! However, we expect that an increasing number will be getting under the load and assuming a larger part in bearing the responsibility of things. At least, such is the purpose and design of all of our plans and projects here.

Many men came North and joined the Klondike Gold Stampede in 1898. Among them was a modest little man by the name of Joshua Ray. He found some gold, but missed most of it, in common with the rest. And, like them he came down the mighty Yukon into Alaska, went forth into the hills out away from others, and pursued his incessant search for the yellow metal. And so-"faint, yet pursuing;" he came in to spend a winter, frequented the Church, became personally concerned,- and on last Easter Sunday Joshua accepted Christ, and I had the joy of baptizing him at the age of 72. Last fall dear old "Josh" went to his Heavenly home, and we tenderly laid him away.

------John E. Youel, Missionary & Pastor.

NARRATIVE--- First Presbyterian Church- Fairbanks, Alaska
for the Month- Jan. 15 to Feb. 14, 1935

Can it be that another month has passed since we last wrote our monthly narrative? Time flies so fast; it must be that we are keeping very busy. At least we have not been idle. It is a pity that we do not have more definite things to show for our activities. But our friends will know that a country that is still being pioneered and having a large transient population is constantly presenting handicaps and problems which make results very hard to obtain and impossible of adequate tabulation. Such is the situation in this vast interior of Alaska.

For more than a week an epidemic of influenza prevailed in this community. The health officer reported that there were as many as five hundred cases at one time. All public places of assembly were ordered kept closed until the trouble had abated. In the Church none of the services or meetings of organizations were held during that time. Nearly every person had the "flu." Fortunately the form of sickness was not very severe this time. There were few fatalities. None occurred as a direct result of it within our congregation. We deeply regret the fact that our work was interrupted by the break in its continuity, but we are so thankful that all seem to be well over the trouble.

Early in the last month Florence Anderson passed from this life to her eternal home. Florence spent nearly all of her life of over thirty years here in Fairbanks. This has been her home all that time which measures the whole history of this gold-mining camp and town. In childhood she suffered affliction from infantile paralysis, which made her a permanent invalid. Her home and family were decidedly Christian, and Florence has been a sweet and devout Christian girl all through her life. She early united with the Church as a member and has loved to be within the services. Failing with increased paralysis for the past two years she has not been able to be in her desired place in the Church. For the last six months not at all. Within the last hour of her life here she said "I would like to go to Church at least once more." Her parents have been so loyal and devoted, and have done their wonderful part faithfully. Her father, Andrew Anderson, is a Ruling Elder of our Church. Under the circumstances it is a mercy that Florence's limited and suffering life here is over, and she is now with her Saviour and loved ones on the other side. I relate this story because of the witnessing significance of this good life which was lived here through many years. Souls are precious in this Alaska country as well as other lands.

The Departments of the Church are all more or less active and able to carry through some effective work: The Ladies' Aid Society is reliably "on the job" and never fails to accomplish good things. Within the last month they prepared and served a fine chicken dinner and had splendid patronage. They realized a very satisfactory amount of money which goes toward paying their pledge for the year to be applied in retiring the notes on our Church Building project; The Sunday School and Young People are doing their part. A fine social event has recently been held and was greatly enjoyed by all who attended. The Men hold a Forum on the first Saturday night of each month. A speaker is customarily invited to be present and deliver an address upon the subject of his own choice, and then all present have the privilege of engagding in the open discussion or asking questions. A social hour with modest refreshments at the tables concludes the very profitable evenings in this manner.

We are already laying our plans for the coming Easter season and placing emphasis upon the call and invitation for Christian decision in all departments and among all the ages.

John E. Youel, Missionary & Pastor.

First Presbyterian Church
JOHN E. YOUEL, PASTOR
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

February 15, 1935

Dr. John M. Somerndike,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

rec'd 3/4/35

Dear Dr. Somerndike:

Our Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Yukon will be held at Seward, Alaska, on February 27--28. It is more convenient for us to meet there than elsewhere, because the boat and train meet there, and the three of us,- Bingle, Winterberger, and Youel,- can spend the night in holding our Meeting,-then get away back to our respective fields with the minimum time expended. Should we hold our meeting at Cordova,as we had planned, Winterberger and I would have been obliged to be away from our Churches and fields over more than two Sundays.

If you receive this notice in time, and have anything you wish to communicate to us for consideration in our Meeting of Presbytery, you could address a wire to any one of us to Van Gilder Hotel, Seward, Alaska. Our Boats out of Seattle are running at not less than a ten-day schedule at present. The trains on our Alaska Railroad are running accordingly for connections. The transportation and mail service is therefore very slow at this time of the year. However, we never have oftener than weekly service.

I wish that you might be up here for a visit and conference with us.

We are all so very busy and feel that we are accomplishing some definite things.

Hoping all is favorable at Headquarters, I am,

Yours cordially,
John E. Youel
Stated Clerk.

March
11th
1925

Rev. John E. Youel,
Fairbanks, Alaska

Dear Mr. Youel:

I have been out of the office since the middle of February and upon returning today I find your letter announcing the meeting of your Presbytery on February 27th and 28th. This letter I understand arrived in the office on March 4th. You inquired whether there was any message that I wished to send for this meeting of your Presbytery but of course it is too late for that now. I hope that you had a good meeting of Presbytery and that all your plans for the coming year will work out satisfactorily.

Faithfully yours,

JMS:BH

NARRATIVE--- First Presbyterian Church- Fairbanks, Alaska
for the Month- Feb. 15 to March 14, 1935

Our weather is rather stormy but not severely cold any longer. We are beginning to feel the warmth and power of the sun during the days. It seems good to have the longer light days coming back after several months of so much darkness. Has been snowing hard for about three days; we have several feet of snow now, and this is March 20th, the most that we have had all winter. The ice on the rivers is four or five feet thick now; it is thicker than usual because there was so little snow before late in December. Consequently the frost went very deep. We shall soon begin to see some signs of the coming of spring.

All of the departments of the church have been functioning normally during the past month, and many good things have been undertaken and much has been accomplished. The services of the church have been very well attended and there seems to be a distinct deepening sense of spiritual interest among the worshippers. We are doing our best to plan and conduct all of the services in such way that all may participate in them and made to feel that they are essential to their personal welfare and growth in grace. Many remark about the helpfulness of our services. So we are encouraged and made very happy. We suffer from the competition of the many social and fraternal societies in the town, all of which make very much of their social and promotional activities. This fact makes our hold and appeal less effective with a great many people. Since the population of the community is not over 2500 many of the events must now and then suffer from small attendance and meagre support. Usually we have our fair share of patronage and have good reason for our opinion that the church is still regarded as one of the best assets of the whole country. Of course,we are sure that it is THE BEST ASSET. What a vast field of opportunity and responsibility it has in Alaska! God help us to make the most of it!

Three weeks ago the Presbytery of Yukon held its one stated meeting of the year. This time we met at Seward, so that we could save time for the three of us who could possibly attend, because at this town the boats of The Alaska Steamship Company and The Alaska Railroad trains meet. The Rev. B.J.Bingle of Cordova came over on the S.S.Northwestern and the Rev.E.L. Winterberger of Anchorage and I went down on the train from our stations. There is no Presbyterian church or mission at Seward, but had we held our meeting at the place of either of us it would have been necessary for two of the three men to be absent from our respective fields for at least two weeks and over two Sundays. The boats maintain a ten-day winter schedule, and sometimes they fail in their attempt at that. Our policy of meeting this way necessitated an all-night session of Presbytery. We did it, carried through our complete docket, and, without sleeping a wink, we were homeward bound after 12 hours' visit in the Port of Seward, Alaska. For me I was enroute and absent from my station three nights and four days, and travelled over the entire route of The Alaska Railroad a distance of 941 miles the round trip. How is that for the functioning of a presbyter in the Presbytery of the greatest geographical dimensions in our Assembly? This was done from Tuesday morning to Friday evening and did not miss a single appointment. Had a real joy in a bit of concentrated fellowship with the brethren, and met many other friends whom I have come to know along the route of the railway through ten years' time. Gave me a lift!

An "Ice Carnival and Dog Derby" was held in Fairbanks for three days this month. Its slogan was "Come Out and Play!" It proved to be a very popular and spectacular event with most of the people and many visitors from other places joyfully participating. Several airplane loads came over from Dawson,Yukon Territory,Canada, and a special train brought many from points along the railroad belt. Some dog teams came in by airplane to enter for the races. The 80-mile race was run on Sunday,much to our regret,and the first prize was $1,000. Our town was entirely possessed with it all.

John E. Yoder
Missionary & Pastor

First Presbyterian Church

JOHN E. YOUEL, PASTOR

FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

May 28, 1935

Dr. J. M. Somerndyke,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New Yprk, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Somerndike:

I am sending the reports which you requested in your letter dated May 7th. I hope that we are including all of the items which you expect, and that you are not disappointed in our showing. We have been much busier through the year than the figures can adequately express.

Fifteen members have made an annual pledge toward the support of the church. In some cases this is the family pledge. The average amount pledged by each has been about 75¢ per week. We use the weekly envelope system,for both current expenses and benevolence & missions- double pocket. This system is growing in favor and use; we have twenty-two pledges with the packets of weekly envelopes this new year.

The schools are closing, our spring is here; so we must expect that many of the people will be missing from some of the services and activities of the Church and Sunday School. We are doing our best to keep things together normally through Children's Day. We shall use the Board's literature, and shall work for the best possible offering for the Department of S.S.Missions.

Kindest regards from us all, I am,

Yours faithfully,

John E. Youel.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OF FAIRBANKS, ALASKA, YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1935:

April 1, 1934 - Balance on hand		$ 44.87
Receipts to March 31, 1935:		
Local Church pledges		792.15
Plate offerings		344.19
Missions and Benevolences		101.01
Miscellaneous contributions		120.00
Ladies Aid Society		120.00
Washington-Alaska Bank - final dividend		.70
Sale of Organ		15.00
		$1,537.92

DISBURSEMENTS:

Rev. John E. Youel - Pastor's salary	$ 700.05
Janitor service	140.00
Missions and Benevolences	100.34
Light and Power	111.49
Fuel	182.59
General Assembly Tax	18.00
Hubbard Press - supplies	5.22
Frank Buteau - labor	20.00
Tanana Publishing Co. - programs	4.75
Paul Palfy - pump repair	22.50
W. C. Ross - new element for electric range...	5.00
Sawdust	11.25
Cartage on sawdust	11.25
W. H. Gilcher - stove pipe	5.75
John H. Gross, Treasurer - Pension dues	60.38
Scavenger service	20.50
Water	14.25
Music	52.82
Check tax	.96
Total disbursements	1487.10
March 31, 1935 - balance on hand	50.82
	$ 1,537.92

Respectfully submitted,

E. A. Tonseth
Treasurer.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF FAIRBANKS, ALASKA, FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1935:

BUILDING FUND:

April 1, 1934 - Balance on hand		$ 5.65
Receipts:		
Mr. & Mrs. F. L. Baker		25.00
N. H. Castle - short term loan		1,000.00
Ladies Aid Society		750.00
First National Bank - Loan		450.00
Mr. & Mrs. Edgar Clausen		20.00
Notes Payable (6)		3,000.00
		$ 5,250.65

DISBURSEMENTS:

Eielson Memorial Fund	ck. 86	$ 900.00
" " "	87*	691.80
First National Bank	88	
Principal $450; Interest, $7.50		457.50
N. H. Castle	89	
Prin. $1,000; Int. $10.00		1,010.00
Andrew Nerland (In full)	90	1,000.00
(void)	91	
M. R. Boyd	92	900.00
" (½ accrued interest)	93	63.00
T. A. Nerland (on $1000 note)	94	150.00
Check tax		.12
		$ 5,172.42
On hand, March 31, 1935		78.23.
		$ 5,250.65

Balance Notes Payable: $2,850.00
Reduction of debt during year: $550.00

Respectfully submitted,

E. A. Tonseth
Treasurer.

First Presbyterian Church

JOHN E. YOUEL, PASTOR

FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

June 4, 1935

Dr. John M. Somerndike,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Somerndike:

I have your two letters of recent dates, and am greatly concerned with what you say in them.

Thank you so much for your assurance that a grant of $250.00 will be made by the Board for the purpose of providing transportation for Mrs. Youel to the States, and that you will have it mailed in ~~in~~ time to reach here by the first of July. We appreciate your approval and efforts in this matter, and assure you that she will make much of the needed change and visit over the next winter, probably.

I am rather alarmed by what you state in the other letter regarding the idea of our congregation assuming a larger part in the payment of my salary. If you were actually here on the ground you would surely be impressed with the fact, as I am, that every one of those dollars coming into the various treasuries of the organizations COMES HARD. In this country everywhere there is very little such stability of residence as exists in the towns and cities of the States. Practically half of the whole amount of our receipts for all purposes was raised by our Ladies' Aid Society. Most of the workers in that group of women are not members of the Church, will not become members, and do not even attend the services of the Church with any degree of regularity. We wonder why they are so capably working for the Church's objectives. We are busy upon all occasions to accept their services and do our best to cheer them along.

Of course, I shall take all you say about this into serious consideration, but as I know the situation and conditions on this field and in the whole Interior of Alaska as no one else can possibly know them up-to-date, nothing should be done at present to detract us from expending our efforts to retire this bunch of notes which represent our building indebtedness. Things materially are looking good for Fairbanks and vicinity at present. Give us time to get on our feet and I believe we shall be able and happy to assume a larger part of the whole budget. Please do not ask us to make any changes this year, nor next. Looking back over my seven years on this field I am proud of our few faithful folks for coming to the front and doing so much. Faithfully,

John E. Youel

NARRATIVE [redacted] First Presbyterian Church- Fairbanks, A[redacted]ka
for the Month- April 15 to May 14, 1935

Spring has come at last- the green grass has begun to show in some places, and the trees are indicating some signs of breaking into leaf. The annual "break-up" has not come at the end of this narrative month, but it is expected at any hour now. This is the latest date on record for the ice to remain in the rivers. When the ice moves someone of over 60,000 persons is sure to be made very happy and quite rich in this part of Alaska; the big "Nenana Ice Pool" has more than that many dollars invested, one dollar per guess on the day, hour, and minute when the ice will move on the Tanana River in front of the depot at Nenana, Alaska. The one who guesses the right time, or the one nearest to the right time, will win the whole pool minus the expenses of conducting the game. Many good people- all kinds in fact- are hoping to be the winner respectively. It is a very common expression around here to hear persons tell what they are going to do "If I win the Ice Pool." They all have very remarkable ideas of the way they will spend the money. Several have told me that they would give me a good sized check for my Church; one or two have stated that they would pay off the balance of our Church Building Debt. I very much doubt that we shall be favored in such a fortunate way. Of course it is a gamble, but not so bad as some forms of gambling, because it is simply a guess upon the time of the moving of the mighty mass of ice in the river- and that no man can effect in the slightest way. One element of harm in it all, is the fact that too many people take the chances and put a lot more money into it than they can afford. Many will do so and fail to pay their various obligations at the grocery store, and other places. I have related this at some length because it is of great relative interest annually at this time of the year.

We had a very wonderful Easter in our Church. The attendance in all of the services was large for this place, and all of us who were responsible for the details of the various hours were made very happy. It is always a great delight to see the many people express their interest in the wonderful Gospel fact of the Resurrection. Much spiritual fervor was manifested, and we are encouraged to believe that better and brighter days are just ahead of us in the things of the Kingdom of our Lord. Our fine Chorus Choir was well prepared and rendered several numbers of beautiful appropriate music. I have never experienced a more blessed Easter, including the observance of Holy Week. We shall work for and confidently expect results in the way of conversions of some, or many, in the days to come ere long.

Several of the local fraternal and pioneer organizations have been guests in different regular services during this month, as has come to be the custom in our Church. It was our privilege to extend invitations, and our pleasure to have them accept and attend in fairly good numbers. We love to extend and invest our cordial hospitality as well as provide for a wider distribution of the Gospel message. Many of the residents of the town and country about seem to enjoy coming to our Church, even though they may have their responsibility in another Church or are not definitely identified with anything except their Lodge. In this class there are very many. We try our best to be friendly in honorable ways with all of the people.

Mothers' Day was fittingly observed in all of the services, and good attendance indicated the persisting interest of the beautiful custom.

Children's Day will be our next major event. Preparations are under way for an adequate observance. By that date the Schools will be out and the children will scatter far and wide over Sundays. Hard to hold them.

John E. Youel, Missionary & Pastor.

June
17th
1925

Rev. John E. Youel,
Fairbanks, Alaska

Dear Mr. Youel:

Replying to your letter of June 4th, I am writing to say that I realize the burden which your church is carrying in paying off the notes on your building debt, and of course that should receive first consideration. While that situation continues, I realize that it is going to be very difficult for you to make much progress toward self-support. I think, however, that the goal of self-support ought to be kept very prominently before your congregation at all times; and it seems to me that even during these years while you are paying off the debt, the congregation ought to assume each year a little larger share of your salary, even though it be not more than $50 a year - which as you know is less than one dollar a week.

If they will assume the responsibility for $50 per year additional toward your salary for the year beginning October 1st, and continue to take $50 additional each succeeding year - thus relieving the Board's share of your salary - until such time as their notes are entirely paid off, they should then be in a position to become almost fully self-supporting.

It should be a matter of pride with every church, whether in a mission field or not, to support its own minister; and it should be the pride of every pastor to be supported by his own congregation, rather than out of the missionary funds of the Church at large. We realize, of course, that many of our native churches in Alaska will have to be supported out of mission funds for an indefinite period, and that they can make very little progress toward self-support; but with reference to white congregations, the situation seems to us to be quite different and the Board is constantly placing increased pressure upon churches with giving ability to develop their own pride of independence by adopting a plan which will enable them to make some progress each year, however small, toward the support of their own work.

Please let me know whether your church will accept this

arrangement and agree to assume $50 additional toward your salary beginning October 1st, with the understanding that the Board's grant will be reduced by that amount.

Faithfully yours,

JMS:BH

NARRATIVE--- First Presbyterian Church- Fairbanks, Alaska
for the Month- May 15 to June 14, 1935

Here is our Alaska summer! The green things are everywhere. We shall hope that it will prove to be a good, long, and productive season. It is starting out very beautifully, so that we are already beginning to forget much of the dark and cold of the long winter. That is one good reason why we should be glad that spring and early summer come along after we must bear with the winter time. Like many other things that appear in the plan and organization of this world of nature; it is all much better than it would be if we human folks had made it and had the responsibility of keeping it going. So we are happy that we can trust in God and keep on doing our own humble part in the world.

Several special events have called for our attention and participation during this past month: the College and High School Commencements, Memorial Sunday and Memorial Day, and Children's Day. They all required extra work and preparation. Appropriate sermons were prepared and delivered. I was very glad to be able to have some part this way. That fact made me feel sure that there is a large place here for the Church and the Minister. Because of our standing policy to respond to all of the calls upon my time and for my services in various ways we are most awfully busy the years through, and many times find that we are pretty well tired out. We are blessed with good health, and have splendid recuperative powers.

On June 9th we observed Children's Day. It was the very best of such days that we have ever had in our seven years with the Fairbanks field. The attendance was much better than in other years. The explanation for that is that we began earlier than usual laying out our plans for the program, and assigned numerous parts to the children and young people. It surely pays to make use of the people of all ages when there is something to be done. I shall call upon an increasingly large number of the people to take parts in the services and programs in the future. The Sunday School Missionary dramatization which was supplied by the Board of National Missions entitled "The Bible on Owl Creek," was used in our program. This was well presented by members of the Sunday School, and I discovered just before the service began that the boy who was taking the part of the sheep herder used to live in the Owl Creek country of the Big Horn Mountains, which was the supposed setting of the story. This fact, three young people of that family who were taking part in the program, made the whole thing and its appeal all the more vivid and effective. Especially so, considering that we are here in the North so far removed from Wyoming and the States. We observed this event as a combined service of Church and Sunday School. An offering of $22.50 was brought and has been forwarded to the Treasurer of the Board. It was a happy and inspiring day and event.

The Church activities of all departments will be very little for the next three months. The roads are good and the call of the out-of-doors is so strong and alluring that there is nothing that we can do to hold the people of all ages to the in-door affairs. In fact, we are entirely sympathetic with the disposition of the folks to get outside and around as much as possible during the short season of good weather and outdoor interests. There will be no complete break in the services of the Church since I am to be continuously on the field and on the job. In some respects it will be mutually profitable for us all to ease away from the strenuous activities of the long taxing year.

Getting enough sleep is one problem now. Twenty-four hours of daylight! Without the clocks we should scarcely know when it is night.

John E. Youel, Missionary & Pastor.

A RESOLUTION

The Presbytery of Yukon meeting at Palmer, Alaska, March 3, 1936, has looked over the Field and the Work of the Protestant Community Church of the Matanuska Valley, as under the direction and administration of the Reverend Bert J. Bingle, and wishes to go on record as heartily endorsing this project, and recommend to the Board of National Missions the continuation and development of our Board's work and investment in that new and promising field.

Attest: John E. Yorrell
Stated Clerk

Fairbanks, Alaska
April 30, 1936

First Presbyterian Church
JOHN E. YOUEL, PASTOR
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

March 17, 1936

Dr. John M. Somerndike,
Board of National Missions,
156, Fifth Avenue,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Doctor Somerndike:

Here is my monthly report for your files, etc.

The work of the field goes on in about the usual way, and we are finding our time and space quite well filled with the various activities, with the expected stimulus of the near approach of Easter. We shall be planning for a great and effective season. The Church Choir is working on the appropriate music and We are giving some special instruction in the form of a Communicants' Class.

We held our Stated Meeting of Presbytery from Feb. 29 to March 4, at Palmer and Anchorage. It required nearly a week for me to go, carry through the meeting, and return. I enjoyed much of it, even though I had to battle all the way around with a disagreeable cold. It was a good thing that we could be at Anchorage under the circumstances, but we had to take such a decided position with the Church there, that some of them, headed by that Elder, Fred Carlquist, and supported, evidently, by that Minister, Rev.J.M. Amundson, of Seattle Presbytery, act very much as if they will withdraw and form a group, or church, of their own on an "independent" basis. Amundson assured me that he would not encourage the aggrieved bunch doing that thing. However, I have little confidence in his word. It is the same old bad mess of things there that has existed for years. When you first wrote me that the Anchorage people had pleased you by stating that they would ask no help from the Board for their new pastor, I was <u>anything</u> but pleased, for I well knew that they could not get along without help, and I felt sure that the thing they had in mind was that, reveiving no aid from the BOARD, would permit them to DO ANYTHING THEY PLEASED, and ask nor expect a thing from the Board and Presbytery. We had to tell them differently while there. It was the only thing we could do. That man Amundson worked into the hands of the divisive group there, and has precipitated a serious situation. We indicated to him that we expected him to get away from the "picture" there, and return at an early day to Seattle. Presbytery took action opposed to his assuming the office and duties as pastor or stated supply at Anchorage.

<u>I am now the Chairman of the Committee on National Missions.</u> Please direct me in all things pertaining to the appropriate co-operation with the interests of the Board. Our field is far-reaching, and the problems are intricate and numerous. Here at Fairbanks- "The Golden Heart of Alaska"- I am situated in the very center of the geographical area of the

First Presbyterian Church

JOHN E. YOUEL, PASTOR

FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

I think that it will be too bad if she is not invited to be with Dr.Maier's congregation for a few days while she is out there so near to them. Most surely she will not undertake to go there without the initiative being taken by the Arkansas City people. I missed seeing them twice because they did not do anything about my coming their way,- and then they made quite a "fuss" about it all when it was too late. Mrs.Youel is capable of giving them a lot to understand about their investment at Fairbanks,-and much for them to think over for years to come. I hope that they will care to arrange for her to spend a week with them soon. We shall then understand each other in a better and happier way.

Our son, Harlan, is working hard at Harvard, is on the honor list, and will graduate in the coming June. He hopes to find his permanent work in the East. Then,he says, "Dad and Mother will come there to live with him." But,we think it will take a strong pull to get us out of Alaska. Over ten years now have pretty well made us "fixtures" for the rest of our working days. We are hoping they may yet be very many.

My year here alone in The Manse has not been easy at all, but I've been getting along all right, and have been so busy that the time has gone rather fast. How glad I shall be to see Mrs.Youel back here and filling her wonderful place in Manse and Church again!

We are still having real winter- temperature was down to 15 below zero last night. The sun is giving us daylight for 50% of the time now, and it looks good to us. The snow of the winter is still deep and piled high along the streets and roads. Will probably be nearly two months yet until the ice moves out of the Rivers.

Thank you for your kindly consideration in our behalf.

Yours cordially,

John E. Youel.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Fairbanks, Alaska

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1936

Morning Worship at Eleven

Piano Prelude- "Melody" - - - - - - - - Dawes
Doxology- Invocation- Gloria Patri
Responsive Reading No.5- God's Ideal for His People
Hymn No.119- "Onward, Christian Soldiers"
The Apostles' Creed
Scripture Lessen- Genesis 42
Congregational Response No.105- "Thy Word Have I Hid in My Heart"
Pastoral Prayer
Offering
Offertory- "Told at Sunset, Op.51" - - - - - MacDowell
Anthem- "Oh, That I Might Find Thee" - - - - Von Berge
Mrs. F. B. Johnston and The Choir
Sermon- Aggressive Personal Work Required of Christian Believers
Text: "We are verily guilty concerning our brother." Gen.42:21
Hymn No.127- "O Zion, Haste, Thy Mission High Fulfilling"
Benediction- Choral Response
Piano Postlude- "Rondo Capriccioso, Op.14" - - - Mendelsschn

Evening Gospel Service at Seven Thirty

Please come and help us To-night. "Gospel of the Liberated Life" will be the sermon topic. Patriotic songs will be sung in the beginning.

The Church Prayer Meeting has as its purpose that without which we must fail--prayer. Seven Thirty Wednesday Evenings at The Manse.

Week Day Church School for Children is held Thursdays at Three Thirty right after School. Very interesting things are being done each week.

The Church Choirtmeets for rehearsal Thursdays at Seven Thirty. Every member is needed that the parts may be assumed and balanced.

SPECIAL- "Washington Silver Tea" to be given by the Ladies' Aid Society in Young Memorial Hall [illegible] 22nd- Saturday at Hours 2 to 5.
FEB

School of the Church- Sunday School- is in session at Ten every Sunday Morning. Classes are provided for all ages. Know your Bible. Register.

The Church Calendar is the Bulletin of our Notices for the Week. It is meant for each person as an Invitation and a Daily Reminder. Be loyal,

NOTE: The following statement is for the use of all who are not now members of a local Church. Consider the matter. Better decide to sign it and then send or bring it to the Pastor today. Delay is not good.

I WISH TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THIS CHURCH.
(Name)_____
(Address)_____

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Fairbanks, Alaska

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1936

Morning Worship at Eleven

Piano Prelude- "A Midsummer's Dream,Op.18" - - - Rolfe
Doxology- Invocation- Gloria Patri
Responsive Reading No.6- God's Gift of Prosperity
Hymn No.175- "Faith of Our Fathers! Living Still"
The Apostles' Creed
Scripture Lesson- Luke 1:1-17
Congregational Response No.105- "Thy Word Have I Hid in My Heart"
Pastoral Prayer
Offering
Offertory- "Meditation" - - - - - - - Hyatt
Anthem- "Grant Us Thy Peace" - - - - - - Von Berge
Sermon- Prepared People Holding to Central Beliefs
Text: "He shall go before him . . . to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." Luke 1:17
Hymn No.118- "Ye Servants of God,Your Master Proclaim"
Benediction- Choral Response
Piano Postlude- "Matrosenlied,Op.68" - - - - - Grieg

Evening Gospel Service at Seven Thirty

Calling for Singers for the Evening Services regularly,-a labor of love. A spiritual revival is at hand if we are willing. Fill the House. The sermon topic is "Gospel of Salvation Once for All."

The Church Prayer-meeting is at The Manse Wednesday Evenings.

Week Day Church School for Children must be omitted for two weeks.

The Church Choir regularly meets for rehearsal Thursdays at Seven Thirty. The members are doing good in the cause of the Kingdom.

A "Covered Dish" Luncheon will be given by the Ladies' Aid Society Friday at One Thirty. All ladies of the community are invited.

School of the Church- Sunday School- is in session at Ten every Sunday Morning. Classes are provided for all ages. Bring in others.

Presbytery of Yukon will meet at Palmer and Anchorage next Saturday to the following Wednesday. The Pastor plans to go. About the services next Sunday look for the Church Notice in the News-Miner.

NOTE: The following statement is here for the use of all who are willing to identify themselves as members with this Church. After it is signed please see that it reaches the Pastor promptly.

I WISH TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THIS CHURCH
(Name)_____

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Fairbanks, Alaska

SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 1936

Morning Worship at Eleven

Piano Prelude- "Berceuse" - - - - - - Greig
Doxology- Invocation- Gloria Patri
Responsive Reading No.7- God's Constant Care
Hymn No.109- "Come, Thou Almighty King"
The Apostles' Creed
Scripture Lesson- II Corinthians 3
Congregational Response No.105- "Thy Word Have I Hid in My Heart"
Pastoral Prayer
Offering
Offertory- "Serenade" - - - - - - - Schubert
Anthem- - - - - - - - - - Selected
Sermon- Transformation by Beholding the Glory of the Lord
Hymn No.99- "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"
Benediction- Choral Response
Piano Prelude- "Alla Marcia" - - - - - Schytte

The Evening Gospel Service will be omitted this Sunday.

The Church Prayer-meeting is held at The Manse at Seven Thirty on Wednesday Evenings. A Bible lesson will be practically considered.

Week Day Church School for Children is held in the Church Thursdays right after School. Boys and girls of the Fourth Grade and over will find much of interest here. Parents,remind the children.

The Church Choir regularly meets for rehearsal Thursdays at Seven Thirty in the Church. For best results all members are needed.

School of the Church- Sunday School- is in session at Ten every Sunday Morning. Classes are provided for all ages. Bring others.

The Church Calendar is the Bulletin of our Notices for the Week. Accept your copy today as an Invitation and Daily Reminder.

Visitors in the Services today and any time may be sure of a cordial welcome and invitation to come again. "He that would have friends must show himself friendly." Take time to shake hands.

This is our Father's house and we are His welcome children.

NOTE: The following statement is placed here for the use of all who are willing to identify themselves with this Church. After it is signed please see that it reaches the Pastor promptly.

I WISH TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THIS CHURCH
(Name)_____

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Fairbanks, Alaska

SUNDAY, MARCH 15,1936

Morning Worship at Eleven

Piano Prelude- "Berceuse" - - - - - - - - Lehman
Doxology- Invocation- Gloria Patri
Responsive Reading No.8- God Our Helper
Hymn No.132- "Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun"
The Apostles' Creed
Scripture Lesson- Acts 2:37-47
Congregational Response No.105- "Thy Word Have I Hid in My Heart"
Pastoral Prayer
Offering
Offertory- "Cradle Song" - - - - - - - - Hauser
Anthem- "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" - - - - - Norman
Mrs.Bernard W. Carr and the Choir
Sermon- The Standard Activity and Prosperity of the Church
Text: "The Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." Acts 2:47
Hymn No.242- "Hark! the Voice of Jesus Crying"
Benediction- Choral Response
Piano Postlude- "Rondo" - - - - - - - - Haydn

Evening Gospel Service at Seven Thirty

Fill the Choir Seats and help the minister hold a great service to the blessing of many in this Evening Hour. "The Gospel of Salvation in a Single Sentence" is the sermon topic. Fill the House.

The Church Prayer-meeting is at The Manse at Seven Thirty Wednesday nights. The usual attendance was doubled last meeting. Come along.

Week Day Church School for Children is held in the Church Thursdays right after School. Parents,remind the children. It is a good thing.

The Church Choir meets regularly for rehearsal Thursdays at Seven Thirty in the Church. Easter Sunday is only four weeks ahead.

School of the Church- Sunday School- is in session at Ten every Sunday Morning. Classes are provided for all ages. Know your Bible.

The Church Calendar is the Bulletin of the Notices for the Week. It is not intended as a program to be followed and left in the seats.

NOTE: This is for those who are willing to identify themselves with this Church. After signing it please see that it reaches the Pastor.

I WISH TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THIS CHURCH
(Name)_____

AIR TRIP MADE BY CLERGYMAN FOR MARRIAGE

MARGARET KRAIGER WEDS GEORGE SAUNDERS AT HOME OF BRIDE'S PARENTS AT NO GRUB CREEK

"A charming wedding was held Saturday afternoon at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Kraiger at No Grub Creek when Margaret Jane Kraiger became the bride of George Larson Saunders," Rev. John E. Youel, pastor of the Presbyterian church in Fairbanks, said today.

Goes By Airplane

"Flying to perform a marriage ceremony was a new experience for me," the clergyman declared. "I took off from Fairbanks with Mr. Kraiger, Miss Barbara Buzby and Pilot Vic Ross shortly before noon Saturday, and traveled the 90 miles to No Grub Creek before 1 o'clock. Mrs. Kraiger had a wedding dinner prepared for us, but as I was scheduled to hold a funeral at Fairbanks at 2 o'clock we could not wait for the dinner. This, Mrs. Kraiger said, was the third dinner she had cooked for the wedding of her daughter since January 6, when it was first scheduled to be held.

"The bride was beautifully dressed in blue. Pilot Ross was best man and Miss Buzby was bridesmaid. The customary ring ceremony was used. The wedding was performed in the fine home of the Kraigers.

"Nearby is the residence which the newly-weds will occupy. They have a fine place there also. Mr. Kraiger and Mr. Saunders are mining partners and are doing very well. The bride is wellknown in Fairbanks, where she grew up and attended school.

Departure After Felicitations

"Following the wedding and congratulations, Pilot Ross, Miss Buzby and I took off for Fairbanks and landed at the airport here at 10 minutes after 2 o'clock. Hosea H. Ross, Fairbanks Mortician, with his automobile was waiting for me at the airfield, and I hastened to the mortuary to perform the funeral services.

"With Pilot Ross I had left Fairbanks, performed the ceremony and returned to this city in less than two and half hours.

"The marriage ceremony was broadcast on Mr. Kraiger's transmitting set to his friends, amateur radio operators throughout this district, so it was a radio wedding after all, you might say."

April
14th
1936

Rev. John E. Youel,
Fairbanks, Alaska

Dear Mr. Youel:

I have your letter of March 17th. It is too bad that the situation at Anchorage has developed so unfortunately, but Mr. Bingle assures me in a recent letter that the group who has remained loyal to the Presbyterian church will carry on in a satisfactory way.

I hope that Mr. Knudsen, the young man whom we have selected for the field, who is experienced, a good speaker, and qualified in every way to lead this congregation, will accept the field and will build up the work in a satisfactory way.

We shall keep in touch with you as Chairman of the Committee of Yukon Presbytery, regarding matters pertaining to the Board's interests within the Presbytery's bounds.

Faithfully yours,

JMS:BH

First Presbyterian Church
JOHN E. YOUEL, PASTOR
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

May 5, 1936

Dr. John M. Somerndike,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Brother:

Thank you for recent word redeived from you re the work of the Presbytery. Also for the "wire" giving information of the declining of Mr. Knudsen to accept the Anchorage field. I am in communication with the Clerk of Session there, and they say that the "Independents" have a man there to lead them, and that, therefore the situation is imperative and a minister must be speedily secured. They want McAdoo. I am in communication with him regarding the matter. Long before you receive this you will have our telegraph message, which will no doubt go through from my office within a day or two. If you will authorize Mr. McAdoo's change to Anchorage, then another man whom you will find and qualify may be sent to Cordova,- and, we pray that all may be well.

I am enclosing a "Resolution" which was adopted by Presbytery about the Matanuska Valley work with Bingle in charge. Also, there are enclosed Miss Stouffer's Report and her letter, which should go with the Report very propenly, though addressed to me, will you please accept it.

Mrs. Youel, my wife, is now visiting the First Presbyterian Church of Arkansas City,- and I am glad of it.

Thanking you again and again for your kind favors,

I am,

Yours cordially,

John E. Youel

A PASTOR SOLEMNLY MEDITATES

"Why is it that your name is missing from our communicant roll?" asked the pastor. The person to whom the question was put was a young woman past twenty-five years of age,a school teacher of intelligence and,by all the usual signs,a Christian,interested in church worship and work. She was seldom absent from a church service,and attended prayer-meeting and young people's meetings,but had never publicly confessed her faith in Christ. Her parents were church people of a mild sort,and her personal life was as good as any other young woman. "No one ever asked me," was her answer. No pastor or parent or church worker or friend or anybody had invited her to unite with the church. That seemed strange, almost impossible. Pastors,in particular,are eager for accessions,and often are very urgent. They receive many who do not "endure to the end." They are anxious for a long list of new members,and make joining very easy. This,therefore,was a very unusual instance. How many are of our church,yet not in it! We know that many who are in are not really of it. Are there many in the opposite position?

Once the pastor spoke to a former state and national legislator of distinction who had also been an Assistant Attorney General of the United States. When at home he was an unfailing attendant at church,and was a good listener. He helped the church in every way by his presence and his money. When the pastor spoke to him,he frankly,strongly and promptly expressed trust in Jesus Christ as Saviour from sin,of which he acknowledged his need. "Why not be an enrolled member of the church on earth?" asked the pastor. He sat in thought for some minutes. His face was red. Tears filled his eyes and rolled down his cheeks. At last he said, "I am past seventy and I have had a home and practiced law here for fifty years. I have done in the past,and now do,business with church people,with your elders,and with leaders in other churches. My wife was a member of your church when we married,so were the best young people with whom we wished to associate. I have attended and supported your church for a half century. My wife is still a member of your church and so are my two living daughters. We are a cordially united family,except at the communion,when they partake,while I,right beside them,do not. Several years ago three of our children lay dead in our home at one time from diphtheria. We had all sympathy extended,but, young man,do you know that neither at that crucial time nor at any other time had a pastor,or even my wife,or any business churchmen ever spoken to me as you have? I have been invited to join business deals, social parties,fraternal societies,political enterprises,but not the church. I really felt it. I am too old now. I have missed much." He was serious as he spoke.

He and the young woman should not have waited for man's invitation. Christ had said, "Come unto me." But are not pastors and other Christians very remiss in this respect? Are not those who think they are Christians very indifferent about their neighbors and even their kin folk? The two cases mentioned differed very widely from each other. We believe both were true Christians and should have knocked at the church door themselves,but it does seem strange that no one was concerned enough to ask them to join the church. The pastor resolved to correct this deficiency as he was able.

---The Presbyterian

I used this generously through the Conquering prior to Easter.

J. E. Yount.

First Presbyterian Church

JOHN E. YOUEL, PASTOR

FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

NARRATIVE--- FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH-- JUNE 15--JULY 14- '36

On this date and succeeding we found ourselves almost abruptly in the midst of very warm summer weather, all of which was most enjoyable and productive of wonderful growth of grass and gardens. It also induced many of the people of the community to get out on the roads and to the Lakes for the week-ends. Consequently,there was a large reduction in the number of attendants upon the services and appointments of the Church. This is to be expected,as we have come to know,during the brief pleasant conditions of the summer season after a very long, dark and cold winter. Everybody needs the bright sunshine for the welfare of their health.

All services of the Church were maintained until July 1st, when the Sunday School and Evening Service were discontinued for the two months- July and August. The regular Morning Worship will be held thru the summer,and attendance is holding up to a fairly good number. We are missing the presence and help of the Choir. The Pastor must lead the congregation in the singing of the hymns.

Quite a good many tourists are present in the service each Sunday. Many States and Churches have been represented each Sunday so far. It is delightful and encourageing to have these fine people come in,and they invariably compliment us upon the attractive and beautiful little Church and the good and cordial services of worship. It means so much to us to have these visitors and helps us to be the happier and contented in this country that sometimes seems to be so far away from home and friends.

We are enjoying a very beautiful summer thus far,--I think,the best we have known in the eleven years of our life and ministry in Alaska.

Mrs.Anna Phelps Youel,the Missionary's wife,arrived back home on July 8th from the States,where she spent nearly a year. Needless to say,the Missionary and Pastor is very happy to have her at home again. Returning with her ,were her sister,Mrs.Winne P.Baskerville,widow of a Presbyterian minister,and neece,Miss Barbara Baskerville,who graduated last month from the North Dakota Synodical College,Jamestown College. It is so good and cheering to have them here with us for a visit.

Mrs.Youel's services were in demand at numerous churches and groups in the States during her year Outside. She could not possibly meet all of the requests for her visits and talks on Alaska and Alaska Missions. She did respond to more than twenty such requests,and all, of course,without remuneration. All of the people were very kind to her, and they expressed great delight and interest in her remarks and descriptions of various things and conditions in our country up here. Many friends were made for the cause and for herself.,As we hear from and meet many of these people again,there will be a happy understanding between us which was not possible previously. Especially, such will be the case between us of the Fairbanks Church and the First Presbyterian Church of Arkansas City,Kansas,our beloved sponsoring Church and people.

--John E.Youel, Pastor-Missionary.

Wales, Alaska.

Aug. 15.1936

Rev.J.E.Youel.
Fairbanks.
Alaska.

Dear Rev. Youel;

My reports enclosed,and you will find the attendance record only fair,yet very,very good considering the few people in Wales these days. Several families have gone for the summer,and will not return until the tin mines close down late toward Fall. Then some others are away southward gathering berries,and some more are expecting to go just any day, these would have been gone but the Herders have not yet found the herd of reindeer for marking and etc,so for this reason I still have so many people here.

On the 16th of July six Oomiak loads of Natives from Diamede Island(some Siberians too) were driven by a storm to our beach where they camped for two weeks waiting for the rough Sea to calm enough for them to preceed to Nome. These people are so very different from Wales Eskimo,and are nearly all of them Catholics,and it was quite evident from the way the whole of residents here turned out to help load up etc the day the Sea was a bit calm,that my folks here were glad when once more our beach was cleared. I was surprised at the way my people did it.

We have been having a very wet summer but it matters not to the natives,the women and girls are still gathering herbs,and now the black berries are about ready to pick. And as soon as the reindeer herd is brot to the Corall,the whole town,men women and children go to the Corall to work and if the weather is not too bad I think I shall go with them as I do not wish to stay here alone,so when this begins we will not likely hold any meeting out there,so some meetings will likely be not held next month.

The medical work is practically nil all this month except for a few sick children,nothing serious. The C.G.Cutter:Northland,with its Dr and Dentist were here and pulled a few teeth,looked at a few old ~~ch~~ Chronic grumblers and is gone on its way,maybe they will return on their way out from Barrow?

Sincerely yours

Emma M. Stauffer.